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SEASON OF PENTECOST

FIRST CHURCH  
IN CAMBRIDGE

Congregational 1633-1636  
United Church of Christ  
Garden and Mason Streets  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE...  
Grounded in God • Growing in Community • Acting in Love

We're glad you are worshiping with us today! First Church is a vibrant, multi-generational, engaged, urban church. We care a lot about each other and what's happening in the world around us. Wherever you are on the journey of faith, you are welcome here.

FIRST CHURCH  
IN CAMBRIDGE  
CONGREGATIONAL  
**385 YEARS**  
ON THE WAY  
1 6 3 6 – 2 0 2 1

## Sunday, June 20, 2021

**Preaching Today**  
**Leading Worship**

Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach  
Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*  
Lexi Boudreaux, *Pastoral Associate*  
Sarah Higginbotham, *Director of Creative Worship & Arts*  
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*  
Adam Weiss, *liturgist*  
Meredith Quinn, *for the "Exploring Reparations" Faith & Life Group*  
Claire Hunt, *for the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO)*  
Chris Reynolds, *Clerk*  
Kevin Newell, *tech support*

**Bulletin Cover Image** Gaylen Morgan, *First Church member*

### TODAY'S PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Religion, White Supremacy, and Capitalism, [via Zoom](#)  
11: 00 a.m. Morning Worship, [via livestream](#)  
12:15 p.m. [Zoom](#) Coffee Hour  
2:00 p.m. Young Adults Gathering, Cambridge Common

### NEW TO FIRST CHURCH?

Have you just begun joining us for online worship? Consider filling out this ["virtual visitor card"](#) so that we might reach out and connect with you about our community.

### GIVE TO FIRST CHURCH

You can give online at [www.firstchurchcambridge/give](http://www.firstchurchcambridge/give) or by texting "\$\_\_\_" to: 1-844-996-0982.

### CONTACT A PASTOR OR STAFF MEMBER

Find [contact information](#) for our ministerial, program, and building staff on our website.  
For general information and inquiries: [info@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:info@firstchurchcambridge.org)

*Have a church program or event to promote?*  
Complete the [First Church Communications Request form](#).

*Have an edit or update for our website?*  
Complete the [FCC Website Changes form](#).

## GATHERING

### VOLUNTARY

Five Versets and Canzona

James Woodman

### \*HYMN 57

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

*(see page 4)*

### \*GREETING

Adam Weiss

L: Beloved of God, the Spirit is with us even now, gathering us in.

**C: Then let us be held in God's presence, courage, strength, and love.  
The Spirit meets us wherever we are!**

L: Her love is poured out in abundance—  
where tears and hope are mingled together,  
where anger cries out for justice and peace.

**C: Receive her power and wisdom, through works of mercy  
and healing and liberation.**

L: Come, then, let us worship God.

### WORDS OF WELCOME

Adam Weiss and Sarah Higginbotham

### CANDLELIGHTING

### ANTHEM

My God, My Portion, and My Love  
*First Church Choir, 2019*

James Hopkins

## CONFESSING

### INVITATION TO CONFESSION

### SILENCE

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us pray for healing, pardon and peace:

**C: Holy One, in the light of your risen glory  
we see the harm we have done, the suffering we have caused,  
the good we have refused, and the truth we have denied.**

**Heal us, we pray.**

**Wash us in your mercy, and feed us with your grace,  
so that we may follow in your way  
and tell the good news of the gospel.**

**Amen.**

# DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

## \*GREETING OF PEACE

### OPENING THE WORD

#### PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

#### READING

Psalm 107

#### READING

Mark 4:35-41

#### SERMON

Kate Layzer

#### \*HYMN 380

We Are Not Our Own

*(see page 5)*

### SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Smith

#### MINISTRY MOMENT

Reparations Fund

Meredith Quinn

#### MINISTRY MOMENT

GBIO Regional Caucuses

Claire Hunt

#### PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

Lexi Boudreaux

L: God be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray... *(silence, intercessions, and the Lord's Prayer)*

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

*(Please pray this prayer in words most meaningful to your heart.)*

**All: Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

#### INVITATION TO OFFERING

**\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Praise God, the source of life and birth,  
Praise God, the Word who came to earth,  
Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame,  
All glory, honor to God's name! Amen.**

**GOING FORTH**

**CALL TO SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

Chris Reynolds

**\*HYMN 80**

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

*(see page 6)*

**\*BENEDICTION**

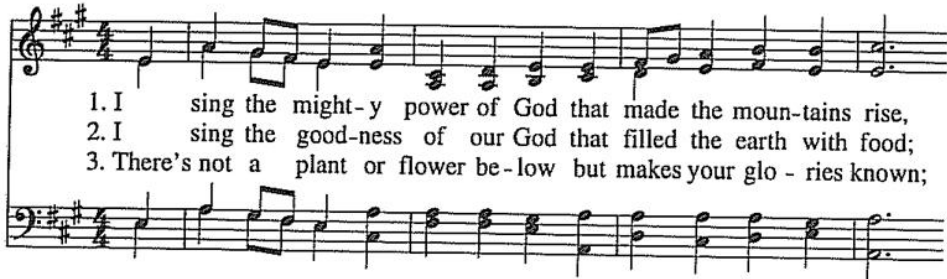
**VOLUNTARY**

Allegro in G Major

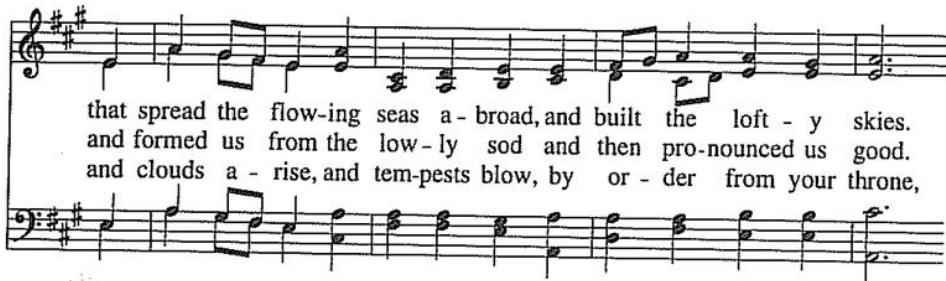
Bach/Ernst

## OPENING HYMN

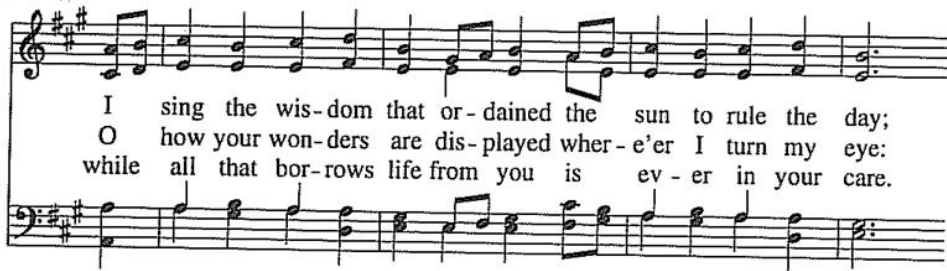
# I Sing the Mighty Power of God



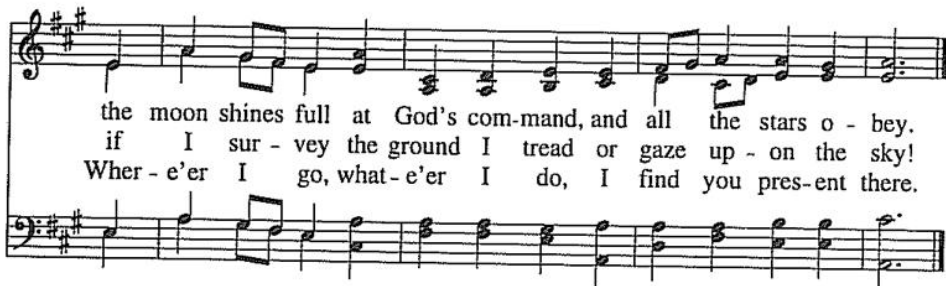
1. I sing the might-y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,  
2. I sing the good-ness of our God that filled the earth with food;  
3. There's not a plant or flower be-low but makes your glo - ries known;



that spread the flow-ing seas a - broad, and built the loft - y skies.  
and formed us from the low-ly sod and then pro-nounced us good.  
and clouds a - rise, and tem-pests blow, by or - der from your throne,



I sing the wis-dom that or-dained the sun to rule the day;  
O how your won-ders are dis-played wher - e'er I turn my eye:  
while all that bor-rows life from you is ev - er in your care.



the moon shines full at God's com-mand, and all the stars o - bey.  
if I sur - vey the ground I tread or gaze up - on the sky!  
Wher - e'er I go, what - e'er I do, I find you pres-ent there.

WORDS: Issac Watts, 1715, alt.

MUSIC: *Gesangbuch der Herzoglichen Wirtembergischen Katholischen Hofkapelle*, 1784

ELLACOMBE  
CMD

# SERMON HYMN

## We Are Not Our Own

*Unison*

1. We are not our own. Earth forms us, hu - man  
 2. We are not a - lone. Earth names us: past and  
 3. Through a hu - man life God finds us; dy - ing,  
 4. There - fore let us make thanks - giv - ing, and with  
 5. And if love's en - coun - ters lead us on a  
 6. Let us be a house of wel - come, liv - ing

leaves on na - ture's grow - ing vine, fruit of man - y  
 2. pre - sent, peo - ples near and far, fam - i - ly and  
 liv - ing, love is ful - ly known, and in bread and  
 4. jus - tice, will - ing and a - ware, give to earth, and  
 way un - cer - tain and un - known, all the saints with  
 6. stone up - hold - ing liv - ing stone, glad - ly show - ing

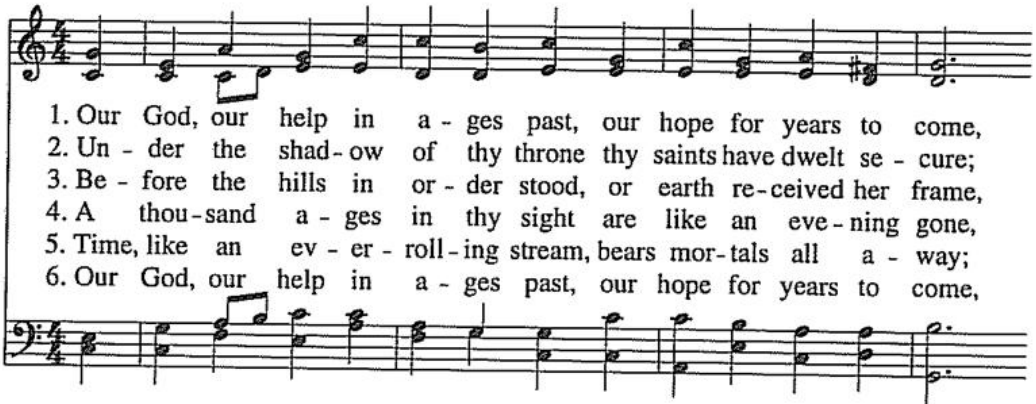
gen - er - a - tions, seeds of life di - vine.  
 2. friends and stran - gers show us who we are.  
 wine re - minds us: we are not our own.  
 4. all things liv - ing, lit - ur - gies of care.  
 prayer sur - round us: we are not a - lone.  
 6. all our neigh - bors we are not our own!

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1987  
 MUSIC: Brian Wren, 1987; harm. Fred Graham, 1987

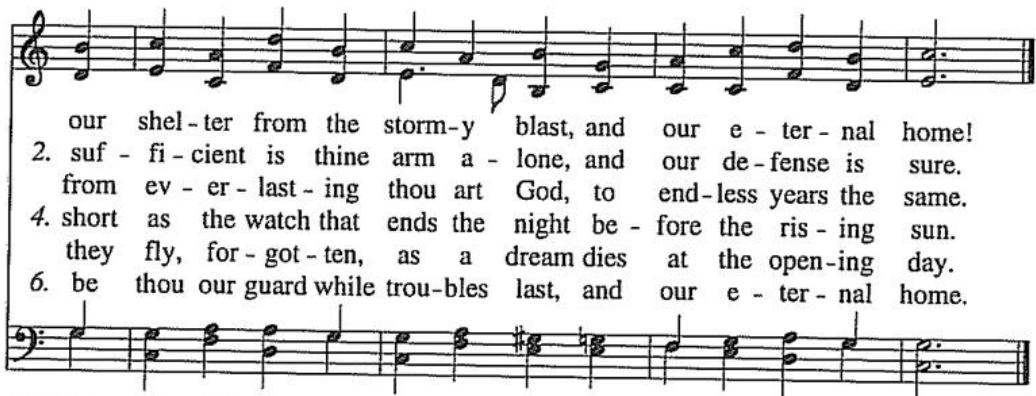
YARNTON  
 89.85

CLOSING HYMN

# Our God, Our Help in Ages Past



1. Our God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
2. Un - der the shad - ow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt se - cure;  
3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,  
4. A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are like an eve - ning gone,  
5. Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, bears mor - tals all a - way;  
6. Our God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home!  
2. suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
from ev - er - last - ing thou art God, to end - less years the same.  
4. short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.  
they fly, for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the open - ing day.  
6. be thou our guard while trou - bles last, and our e - ter - nal home.

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.  
MUSIC: Attr. William Croft, 1708

ST. ANNE  
CM



## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- On this Fathers' Day, we celebrate all fathers—birth fathers, adoptive fathers, stepfathers, and father figures in our lives.
- In our observance of Juneteenth this weekend, we pray for strength and courage as our nation continues to struggle toward true racial justice and liberty for all.
- We pray for Hilary Hopkins as she mourns the loss of her cousin Ted Felton, who died unexpectedly of a stroke last week.
- We pray with joy for the birth of Poppy Renee Hurst, granddaughter of Brent and Poppy Coffin and daughter of Emily Coffin Hurst and TJ Hurst, born this past Wednesday in Philadelphia.
- We pray for Carter West, who has been staying home for a few weeks, working through the effects of medication toxicity.
- We pray for Director of Operations Kirsten Manville's mother-in-law Agnes Foley, who is recovering from a serious car accident.
- We pray for Pauline Fennel, who has been diagnosed with a recurrence of breast cancer. She will begin a promising and non-invasive course of treatment this week.
- We celebrate the graduates among us, including high school grads Emma Blanc and Ella Simons; college grads Jessica Goode, Nicole Haas-Loomis, James Clark Stewart, and Craig Williams; as well as Pastoral Associate Jaz Buchanan (M.Div) and Shelter Staff Janella Sorin Kang (M.P.H).
- We pray with grateful hearts for First Church Moderator Julie Pridham as she transitions to her new life in Flagstaff, Arizona.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Carol Wilson-Braun; Joanne Paul; Sarah Robinson, daughter of Mary Robinson and Mary Martha Thiel; Abby Shuman's uncle Barry; Penny Kilburn, Nancy Kilburn's mother; Amy Golodet, Jonathan New's sister-in-law; Karen Anne Zee's daughter Becky Collet, and her sons-in-law, Denis Collet and Stewart Bailey; and Beth and Polly, Ann McCann's sisters.
- We pray for all who are receiving hospice care, including Rich Goode's mother Donna Goode.
- We pray for all those who are affected by ongoing gun violence in our country and for those working toward common sense gun control legislation.
- As we continue this month of honoring LGBTQ Pride, we celebrate sexual and gender diversity as a blessing that enriches us all and pray for full inclusion and justice for all LGBTQ persons.
- We pray for the friends and family of the 28 (known and reported) transgender and gender non-conforming people who have been murdered in the US in 2021. We pray for lawmakers to make compassionate, equitable, and just decisions as they are faced with bills that seek to discriminate against transgender people.
- We pray for the 14 men who are finding sustenance and protection in our First Church Shelter, and we pray for the guests of the Friday Café, who are finding food and listening ears. We pray for all who are experiencing deprivation and hardship in these uncertain times.

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for all who are awaiting vaccines, especially families with young children—may there be a swift, hassle-free, and equitable distribution for all. We continue to pray for all who are grieving the loss of loved ones to COVID-19. We pray for the “long-haulers,” and we continue to lift up health care professionals and essential workers.
- We pray for those demonstrating against the Line 3 tar sands pipeline in Minnesota, which threatens indigenous tribal lands and promotes climate change. We pray for our nation and our world as we experience the effects of the climate crisis. We pray especially for the poor, who are disproportionately affected by our inaction.
- We pray for immigrants and asylum seekers at our southern border, as well as undocumented people throughout the country, who continue to live in fear, often separated from family, as our nation struggles to develop just and compassionate policies.

Join the [First Church List](#) to see and offer up more community prayer requests.

## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

*Today's 9:30 Formation Hour*

**Religion, White Supremacy, and Capitalism**

**Today at 9:30 a.m., via Zoom**

Please join us for the second session of a special two-part series on Religion, White Supremacy, and Capitalism, led by Vanderbilt University Professor and Theologian [Dr. Joerg Rieger](#). For more than two decades, Dr. Rieger has worked to bring together theology and the struggles for justice and liberation that mark our age. His work addresses the relation of theology and public life, reflecting on the misuse of power in religion, politics, and economics... [Read more and find Zoom link](#)



**Young Adults' Gathering: Decorate a Birdhouse Today, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., Cambridge Common**

Come make your own tiny sanctuary for birds! The Young Adults group will meet on the Cambridge Common to build and decorate some birdhouses. We'll bring supplies; you just bring creative energy.

Want to get on the Young Adults' email list?

Contact: [youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org)

## MORE ABOUT TODAY'S MINISTRY MOMENTS

### First Church in Cambridge Creates Reparations Fund

On Monday, May 24, 2021, the Executive Council voted unanimously to approve the creation of a First Church Reparations Fund. The [measure](#) was brought before church leaders by members of the "Exploring Reparations" Faith & Life group, our Beloved Community group, and our Missions and Social Justice committee. In light of [our church's history of enslaving people](#) of African and Indigenous decent, [recent discussions about reparations](#), and [focus groups](#) with members of local communities who have been harmed by our actions, we feel called by the Spirit to take this first step of creating a fund to which individuals may contribute. Funds raised will be given, on an ongoing basis, to local people of color organizations who will manage the process for distribution within impacted communities. In the coming months, First Church member Karlene Griffiths Sekou, who conducted the community focus groups, will organize this group.



We believe in a God of abundance - First Church members interested in contributing to this fund are encouraged to do so in addition to their annual pledges to First Church. Stay tuned for further developments! For now, if you wish to contribute by [check](#), please make it out to First Church in Cambridge and include "Reparations Fund" on the memo line. If you choose to [contribute online](#), please include the amount on the "Restricted Gift" line and include "Reparations Fund" in the required memo field. If you have questions or concerns, please contact [Rev. Dan Smith](#), [Alice Kidder](#) or [Meredith Quinn](#).

**GBIO REGIONAL CAUCUS LISTENING SESSIONS**

We've heard our stories. Now time to identify our passions.

What are the stories that are creating the most energy within and across our neighborhood?

Click [THIS LINK](#) to see a one pager with more info!

Register at [THIS LINK](#) and you will receive the correct Zoom link in your inbox.

- June 12th, 11-12:30 pm: Boston #1.
- June 14th, 6:30-8: Brookline
- June 15th, 6:30-8: Randolph local action launch
- June 16th, 6:30-8: Other communities
- June 21st, 6:30-8: Boston #2
- June 21st, 7-8:30: Newton, Wellesley Needham, Natick, Framingham
- June 22nd, Tues., 6:30-8: Cambridge/Somerville
- June 23rd, Wed., 6:30-8: Arlington/Watertown
- June 23rd, Wed., 6:30-8: Lexington/Belmont/Waltham

*Help us focus GBIO's platform of issues!*

### **GBIO Regional Caucuses - Sign up Now!**

This spring, First Church has been listening closely to the stories carried by our congregation. Along with the other members of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization, we've taken the season of renewal to find out what is on the hearts and minds of our neighbors. So what's next? Now that we know some of our stories, it's time to look for shared passion, and opportunities to act. We hope that you'll come to one the GBIO Regional Caucuses to share where you see the themes we've uncovered surfacing around you. You can register for your hometown caucus [here](#).

## FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS

*An Opportunity Before Us*

### **Special Congregational Meeting**

**Sunday, June 27, 12:15 p.m., via Zoom**

As we look ahead to the summer and fall, we are invited to discern next steps as we journey further into post-pandemic life, our three-phase staffing plan, and our vision of being an antiracist church. Please join us for an important Congregational Meeting after worship next Sunday to vote on whether to call Lexi Boudreaux to the role of Transitional Minister for a designated term of two years. You can read the full proposal [here](#).



*Note: A Congregational Forum about this and other matters was held on June 13. Lexi shared her own perspective on this opportunity; a summary of her remarks is available [here](#). The formal Call To Meeting can be found below and on the homepage of our website.*

### **SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**Sunday, June 27, 2021**

**12:15 p.m., via Zoom**

Notice is hereby given that  
a Special Meeting of  
First Church in Cambridge, Congregational,  
United Church of Christ,  
will be held at 12:15 p.m.,  
Sunday the 27th of June, 2021, via Zoom.

1. To vote to call Alexandra Boudreaux to the position of Transitional Minister, effective September 1, 2021, for a designated term of two years.
2. To hear reopening plans, including a possible vote, if needed, on necessary expenditures.

No other business may legally come before the meeting.

By direction of Executive Council,  
Christine Reynolds, *Clerk*



## FIRST CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS



### *Upcoming Adult Formation 9:30 Hour* **Summer Learning and Advocacy Kickoff** **Sunday, June 27, 9:30 a.m., via Zoom**

Our final Adult Formation 9:30 Hour of the year will kick off a summer of preparation for our fall formation plans to learn more about the living legacy of settler colonialism. Our Beloved Community, Christian Formation, and Missions & Social Justice groups are teaming up to present a range of opportunities for learning and advocacy (stay tuned for details). Next Sunday at 9:30 a.m.,

we will review suggested reading materials and films for your experience on your own time. We will also share about a number of current legislative measures that we've been invited to support by local indigenous persons.

### A NOTE ON TODAY'S MUSIC

[James Woodman](#) is a Cambridge-based composer of organ and choral music; he plays at the Society of St. John the Evangelist on Memorial Drive, lives around the corner from First Church, and in all likelihood wrote this piece on our Frobenius organ, which he uses to try out new scores as they are written.

The anthem is a new musical setting of an old text by [Isaac Watts](#), written by [James Hopkins](#), professor emeritus at the University of Southern California. The melody is reminiscent of Southern Harmony tunes, and suits the text quite well.

The closing voluntary was originally a string orchestra piece written by Johann Ernst, a musical patron of [J. S. Bach](#), who transcribed it for the organ to show how Bach could re-imagine and transform a musical score. And perhaps to pay homage to his patron...



## Timing of Reopening

### June 13

- Congregational Forum via Zoom, 12:15 p.m.
- Summer "Popsicle Hour" Kickoff, 2:00 p.m.

### June 20

- Regathering Group for Inclusion & Belonging attends worship in-person to begin work of transition to hybrid worship

### June 27

- Special Congregational Meeting via Zoom, 12:15 p.m.



## Timing of Reopening

### July & August

- Deacons and church leaders attend worship in person at 10:00 a.m. to acclimate, offer feedback, and recalibrate for fall reopening (*others will have the opportunity to attend Summer Worship to assist in reopening plans*)
- Popsicle Hour every Sunday at 11:30 a.m. with time for individual prayer in the sanctuary, open to all (*BYO picnic lunch, weather permitting*)

### September 12: Regathering Sunday

- All are welcome to our reopened hybrid worship services in the sanctuary



## FIRST CHURCH REOPENING PLAN



### Hybrid Structure: Fall 2021

*(subject to change)*

- 9:30 a.m.** Zoom Church School (*1st & 3rd Sundays*)  
Zoom Adult Formation
- 10:15 a.m.** Choir Rehearsal in MJH  
Worship Leaders' run-thru in Sanctuary
- 10:45 a.m.** Sanctuary doors open  
Nursery open in Sage Hall
- 10:50 a.m.** Live-stream begins with pre-worship slides
- 11:00 a.m.** Hybrid Worship in Sanctuary
- 11:20 a.m.** Church School in-person (*most Sundays*)
- 12:15 p.m.** Fellowship Hour on lawn/in MJH
- 12:30 p.m.** Hybrid post-worship programs in MJH  
*(starting in October)*

### Practical & Theological Considerations

#### **We believe in science.**

- *We will follow CDC guidelines and city/state protocols for masking/distancing.*
- *Because we are a multigenerational community, we may take a more conservative stance.*

#### **We are called by God to offer a radical welcome to all.**

- *We strive to be accessible to all: in-person and remote, cautious and venturesome, local and afar.*
- *We are improving our technology in order to offer a similar experience of worship and programs, no matter where you are.*

#### **We wish to offer our communal "first Sunday back" at a time when most can attend.**

- *As many First Church folks travel in the summer, we want to wait until September for a powerful moment of shared celebration, grief, healing, and joy.*
- *Our "Regathering Group on Inclusion and Belonging" is meeting to plan for a reopening that is as consistent as possible with our Antiracist Vision and our Christian values of radical hospitality.*





# THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



## Monday, June 21

- 4:00 p.m. Contemplative Practices Group, via Zoom
- 4:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting, via Zoom

See our [Events Calendar](#) for Zoom links and details.

## Tuesday, June 22

- 5:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee Meeting, via Zoom

Committee meeting links are provided to committee members via email.

## Wednesday, June 23

- 4:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

## Thursday, June 24

- 4:00 p.m. Buildings & Grounds Committee, via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Weekly Bible Study, via Zoom
- 7:45 p.m. Choir Call, via Zoom

## Friday, June 25

- 1:00 p.m. Friday Café lunch bag pickup, Tower Room

## Saturday, June 26

- 4:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

## Sunday, June 27

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Summer Learning and Advocacy Kickoff, via Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, via livestream
- 12:15 p.m. Special Congregational Meeting, via Zoom

Sign up [here](#) to receive our weekly e-newsletter.

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